

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 08292 290848Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00

/042 W

-----082755 290902Z /21 S

P R 290834Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6709

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: FIRST KOREAN MEDIA REPORTS ON ROK DIPLOMAT'S DEFECTION

REF: STATE 232865 (DTG 280050Z SEP 77) NOTAL

SUMMARY: USIS REPORTS STORY OF ROK CONSUL'S DEFECTION HAS BEEN CARRIED BRIEFLY ON LOCAL RADIO AND WIRE SERVICE, BUT AFFAIR HAS NOT YET MADE AN APPEARANCE IN THE PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. KOREAN MEDIA HAVE CARRIED FIRST REPORTS OF DEFECTION OF SON HO-HONG (OR "SOHN HO-YOUNG"), ROK CONSULAR OFFICER IN NEW YORK CITY WHO APPLIED FOR CHANGE OF STATUS RECENTLY. USIS REPORTS TONGA RADIO SCOOPED REST OF MEDIA WITH SHORT ACCOUNTS ON ELEVEN AND TWELVE O'CLOCK RADIO NEWS MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 29, (INCORRECTLY IDENTIFYING SON AS "CONSUL GENERAL"), BUT LATER CEASED CARRYING ITEM.

2. ALTHOUGH NO MENTION OF SON'S DEFECTION HAS APPEARED IN AFTERNOON PRESS, USIS ALSO REPORTS THAT LOCAL  
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HAPTONG NEWS SERVICE SENT OUT AN ARTICLE IN ITS THIRD EDITION THIS AFTERNOON. HAPTONG'S STORY, ATTRIBUTED TO "INTELLIGENCE SOURCES IN SEOUL,"SSYS THAT SON, TAKING \$95,000 IN OFFICIAL FUNDS, APPROACHED FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 16 AND ASKED FOR PHYSICAL PROTECTION, SAYING HE WANTED TO STAY IN U.S. WITH HIS FAMILY. SON IS NOW UNDER PROTECTION OF U.S. IN "AN

UNKNOWN PLACE". STORY ADDS THAT STATE DEPARTMENT INFORMED KOREAN EMBASSY OF THIS ON SEPTEMBER 17 AND, IN ACCORD WITH ROK REQUEST, A KOREAN OFFICIAL MET SON AT STATE DEPARTMENT 9/19 AND CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN HIS DECISION. SOURCE ADDED THAT OFFICIAL MONEY WAS RETURNED WITH U.S. COOPERATION. STORY PROVIDES BACKGROUND THAT SON HAS BEEN IN U.S. FOR THREE YEARS, AT HOUSTON UNTIL HIS TRANSFER TO NEW YORK IN EARLY 1977. STORY NOTES THIS IS SECOND SUCH "DIPLO-MATIC" EVENT SINCE KIM SANG-GUN DEFECTED IN NOVEMBER

3. NOTE: USIS REPORTS NEWSPAPER SOURCES STATE SON HAS USED AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT NAME: SON HO-YONG, SON YONG-HO, AND SON KYONG-SU.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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